

Latin people of southern Europe are now horrified at the notion of a married priest. The concubine of a priest is a wicked woman, but she is not a social abomination. All protest and resistance seems to have passed away and, since the sixteenth century, sacerdotal celibacy has been accepted as a feature of the Romish Church, which all its members are expected to accept. It is a grand triumph of social selection.

231. How the church operated selection. The church was a great hierarchical organization for social power and control, which inherited part of the intense integration of the Roman empire.

Fra Paolo Sarpi said of it, in the seventeenth century: "The interests of Rome demand that there shall be no change by which the power of the pontiff would be diminished, or by which the curia would lose any of the profits which it wins from the states, but the novelties by which the profits of the curia would be increased, or by which the authority of the states would be diminished and that of the curia increased, are not abhorred, but are favored. This we see every day."¹ The church decided all recognition and promotion, and disposed of all rewards of

ambi-
 tion. The monarchical and
 autocratic tendency in it was
 the
 correct process for attaining
 the purposes by which it was
 animated. Its legitimacy as
 an organization for realizing
 faiths
 and desires which prevailed
 in society is beyond question.
 It
 drew towards itself all the
 talent of the age except what
 was
 military. It crushed all
 dissenters and silenced all
 critics
 for
 centuries. Its enginery was
 all planned for selection. It dis-
 posed of the greatest prizes
 and the most dreadful
 penalties.
 All its methods were positive
 and realistic, and whatever
 can
 be
 accomplished by authority,
 tyranny, penalty, and
 repression
 it
 accomplished. In modern
 times political parties offer
 the
 nearest
 parallels. They
 are
 organizations for societal
 control, which dis-
 tribute rewards and penalties
 and coerce dissenters. The
 history
 of the papacy in the fifteenth
 century reminds one of the
 history
 of Tammany Hall in the
 nineteenth century. The
 strength
 of
 Tammany is due to the fact
 that it fits the tastes and
 needs
 of
 a great modern city under
 democracy. When Tammany
 won an

¹ *Delia Inquisizione di Venezia, Op ere IV, 51.*